

WEEKEND

redeye

Saturday
FEBRUARY 6, 2010

redeyechicago.com

A Chicago Tribune
publication

★ FREE ★

Jenny Whaley founded
a weekly stitch 'n' bitch
at Mother's Too, the bar
where she works.

NOLAN WELLS FOR REDEYE

Retro active

They're bringing crafty back—
the best hobbies never go out of style
pages 6-7

Jenny Whaley founded
a weekly stitch 'n' bitch
at Mother's Too, the bar
where she works.

NOLAN WELLS FOR REDEYE

Super Bowl
parties for fans
and haters **8**

Organization a
matter of mind
over clutter **12**

Who's in the
White House
kitchen? **20**

Pitchfork fest
unveils partial
lineup **24**

BLAH, BLAH BLOGGERS

Meet RedEye's bloggerati. For more blogs, visit redeyechicago.com.



Ana Fernatt
redeyechicago.com/sexy

A girl should be two things: classy and Mrs. Buble



RedEye staff
redeyechicago.com

We try to be funny.



RedEye Royalty
redeyechicago.com/royalty

A blog run by our loyal readers.



Why were the polling booths empty Tuesday?

Ana (@accidentallysxy): We were too busy trying to soak in every last moment of frequent CTA rides.

Leonor Vivanco (@lvivanco): There were no free snacks given away.

Kim Z. Dale (@newetiquette): Everyone was "Lost."



Why is your Super Bowl party going to be the best?

Ana: I'm hosting my own Lingerie League scrimmage.

Scott Kleinberg (@scottkleinberg): Ummmm, one word: Nachos.

Matthew Bartosik (@polomex): Drinking game. Shot for every reference to "wide receiver" and "tight end."



When Ana Fernatt bumped into Michael Buble in the elevator ...

Ana: He's so petite! I could probably cradle him like a small cat.

Brian Moore (@redeyesports): ... the MichAna Fernuble rumors began flying before the doors opened.

Jennifer Healy (@henjealy): ... he started refiling those old restraining orders.

29 22

TODAY'S FORECAST

A little snow to start the weekend



SUN.

27 22

Cold but dry



MON.

27 23

Snow arrives late



TUE.

27 17

Some flurries



WED.

24 17

Yep, still here

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SUPER BOWL SHOWDOWN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH –DOORS OPEN AT 10AM

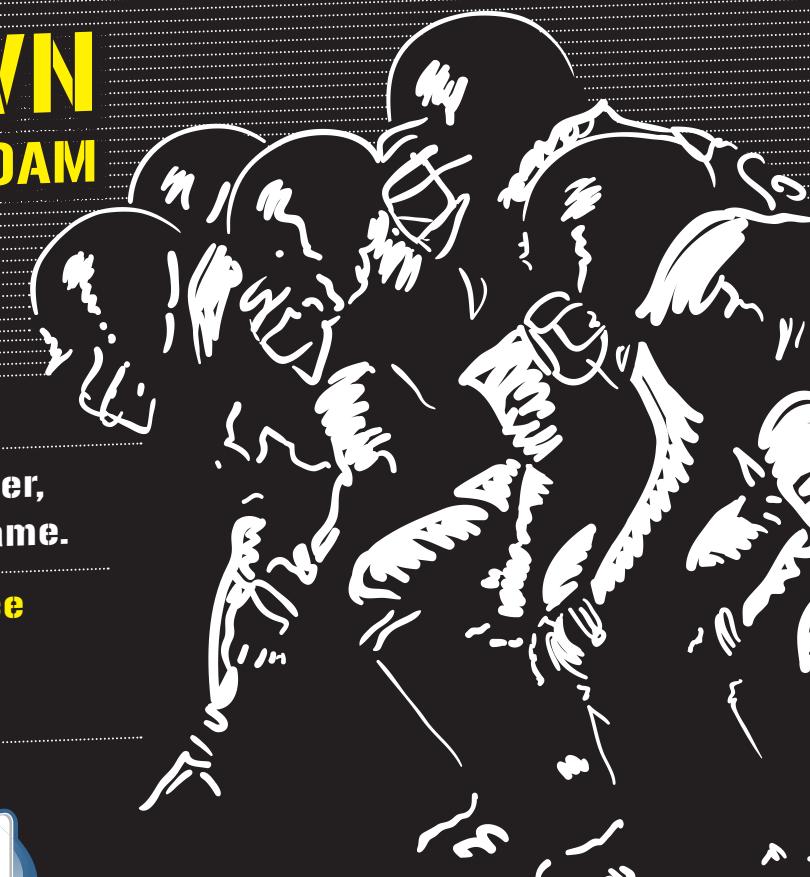
DUFFY'S TAVERN & GRILLE

420 W. Diversey Pkwy

Come early to grab food, drinks and a good seat!

\$20 meal package includes: a Super Bowl buffet, all draft beer, well drinks, wine & soda from kickoff until the end of the game.

Enter RedEye & Metromix's Squares Tournament for a chance to win cash prizes! Just exchange your empty bottle of Bud Light for a square in the Super Bowl Grid.



BUD LIGHT


DUFFY'S
TAVERN & GRILLE


red eye


metromix.com

playlist

sat

The Flaming Dames in 'Bourbon Street Burlesque'

Uptown

The burlesque troupe performs a Mardi Gras-themed show. 10:15 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Feb. 27. The Spot, 4437 N. Broadway. 312-458-9083. \$20.

'From Slavery to Freedom'

Roseland

Chicago's Unity Drama Group performs a play tracing African-American history over the past 400 years. 2 p.m. Carter G. Woodson Library Branch of Chicago Public Library, 9525 S. Halsted St. 312-747-6900. Free.

Raclette demonstration

West Loop

Chef Hans Aeschbacher demonstrates how to prepare the traditional French cheese dish. 2 p.m. Chicago French Market, 131 N. Clinton St. 312-575-0306. Free.

REDEYE/MMX PICK River North Gallery Tours

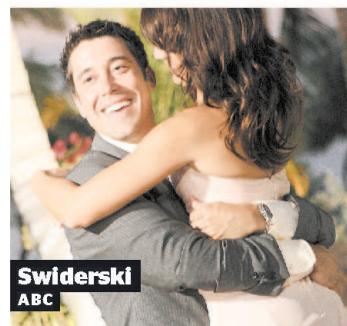
River North

A gallery owner or representative leads a tour of four River North art galleries. 11 a.m. Starbucks Coffee, 750 N. Franklin St. 312-649-0064. Free.

New Leash on Life fundraiser

Sheffield

Ed Swiderski of "The Bachelorette" attends this fundraiser for the volunteer-run dog rescue. Tickets include a cocktail bar, raffle tickets and access to the silent auction. 8-11 p.m. Grand Central, 950 W. Wrightwood Ave. \$50.



Swiderski
ABC

JUST DANCE



THE GAMER

Who's playing at home



NBA Bulls vs. Miami

7 p.m. Saturday,

United Center

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Chicago State vs. Texas-Pan American

4:30 p.m. Saturday, Emil and Patricia Jones Convocation Center



Loyola vs. Cleveland State

3 p.m. Saturday, Gentile Center

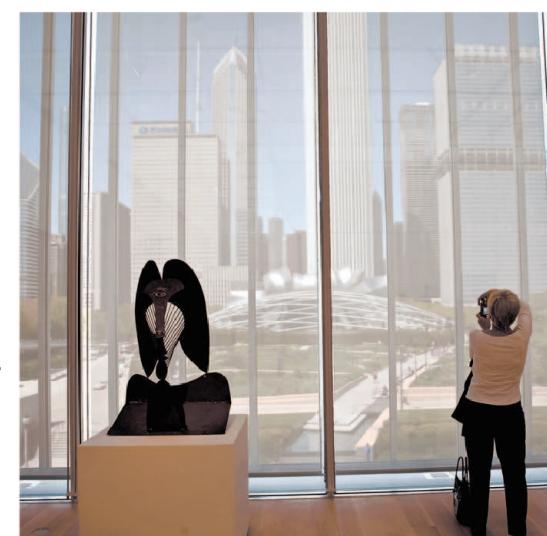


UIC vs. Youngstown State

3 p.m. Saturday,

UIC Pavilion

Northwestern vs. Indiana

1:30 p.m. Sunday,
Welsh-Ryan Arena,
Evanston

The Modern Wing of the Art Institute of Chicago

ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/TRIBUNE PHOTO

sun

It's Super Bowl Sunday! For some suggestions, check out the Metromix It List on **Page 8**, or visit metromix.com for comprehensive listings.

wknd

Art Institute of Chicago

Grant Park Museums

General admission is free through February. Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave., 312-443-3600. Free.

REDEYE/ MMX PICK Chicago Alliance of African American Photographers

Roseland

CAAAP presents a 10-year retrospective look at individual members' photographic works as

part of a comprehensive photography exhibit that opens Saturday in the Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection Gallery. Woodson Regional Library, 9525 S. Halsted St. 312-747-4050.

'To Ukraine With Love'

Ukrainian Village

An exhibit of photographs by Roksolana Tymiak-Lonchyna opens at 7 p.m. Saturday and continues through Feb. 28. Ukrainian National Museum, 2249 W. Superior St. 312-421-8020. \$5.



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and
Metromix.com

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*** On available products in local delivery areas. Must be purchased before delivery cut-off time. See store for details. **** See store for details.



Chinese New Year Open House at Pacific College of Oriental Medicine

Saturday, February 6, 2010

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.,
Chinese New Year
Celebration Activities

- Free Acupuncture and Tui Na Massage Treatments
- Learn the Art of Tai Ji and Qi Gong
- Lectures by Experienced Practitioners

12:00-1:00 p.m.,
Admissions Information Session
for Prospective Students

- Learn What's Unique About Pacific College: Programs, Clinical Experience, and Professional Opportunities
- Admissions – Learn About the Application Process and Schedule a Tour of the Campus

For More Information or to RSVP:

www.PacificCollege.edu or call 1-888-729-4811 ext. 300

Celebrate the Year of the Tiger



3646 North Broadway • Chicago, IL 60613 • www.PacificCollege.edu

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deja view

STATEMENT

"You don't blow a bunch of cash on Vegas when you're trying to save for college. You prioritize. You make tough choices."

—President Obama
on Tuesday during an appearance in Nashua, N.H.

REACTION

"The president needs to lay off Las Vegas and stop making it the poster child for where people shouldn't be spending their money. I would much rather tourists and business travelers spend their money in Las Vegas than spend it overseas."

—U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid
(D-Nev.) on Wednesday in a statement

CLARIFICATION

"I was making the simple point that families use vacation dollars, not college tuition money, to have fun. There is no place better to have fun than Vegas, one of our country's great destinations."

—Obama, in a letter Wednesday to Reid's office

Scott Lee Cohen

The surprise Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor was grilled over a 2005 domestic battery arrest.

Urban Dictionary says ...

"They usually plan to do something to better the world, like going into the Marines or Army."

Alternate definition

"A great romantic at times, but as soon as he gets what he wants the romance is gone."



WILLIAM DESHAZER/TRIBUNE PHOTO

WHO ARE THEY?

We've shared the colors of our bras and photos of our celebrity lookalikes. This week's Facebook fad was just as simple, and just as fun: Search your first name on urbandictionary.com and post the definition as your status update. Just for the heck of it, RedEye typed in the first names of the week's local newsmakers. Was it a relevant exercise? No. But entertaining? Yes! Here are passages from the definitions—and alternate definitions—that caught our eye.



Mike Martz

The veteran NFL coach was hired Monday as the Bears' offensive coordinator.

Urban Dictionary says ...

"The most amazing boy in the world. He is quiet around the masses but he opens up around the one he loves."

Alternate definition

"A gay prostitute who looks like a gorilla."



Toni Preckwinkle

The alderman beat incumbent Todd Stroger on Tuesday for the Democratic nomination for Cook County Board president.

Urban Dictionary says ...

"A woman who knows what she wants and would do anything she could to help her friends out."

Alternate definition

"They play hard like men but always carry themselves like elegant classy ladies."



Isaac Carothers

The alderman pleaded guilty in federal court Monday to bribery and tax charges.

Urban Dictionary says ...

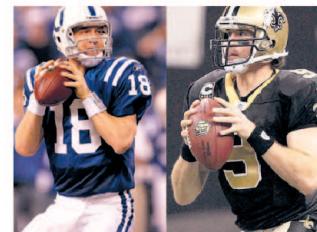
"He will have meaningful, intelligent conversations with you and cherish everything about you. He will give you the right advice, make you laugh and cuddle."

Alternate definition

"Is one who brings peace and others together."

Heat index

RedEye takes the temperature of current events



Super Bowl XLIV

Pass the ranch dip



Election turnout

Did we hear crickets?



'Lost' final season

We're confused and lovin' it!



\$3.8 trillion

Proposed federal budget



Fall Out Boy

Is Pete Wentz done?



Punxsutawney Phil

The rodent saw his shadow

Kickin' it old school

Craft it, print it, stitch it, solve it—batteries aren't included in resurgent hobbies that sometimes evolve into businesses

By Nate Martin

FOR REDEYE

It's a Wednesday night in the Gold Coast, and elbows squirm for leverage on the bar.

A weeknight crowd battling for the bartender's attention? Nope.

Patrons served too much whiskey? Not even.

They're crocheting.

This is stitch 'n' bitch at Mother's Too, where every Wednesday the bar becomes the hangout for a group of women who chat a bit and sip their drinks, but mostly concentrate on their needles and yarn.

Informal meetings set in bars that blast rock music and feature pool tables eschew the perception that crochet is "boring," "stuffy" or "grandma" stuff, said Jenny Whaley, 37, founder of the Mother's Too stitch 'n' bitch, called Happy Hookers.

"My grandmother was a burlesque dancer in the '30s, and she took her crochet wherever she went," said Whaley, a bartender at Mother's Too.

While most people don't have the influence of a hip and sexy grandma, a growing number of hobbyists are adopting pastimes usually associated with the octogenarian set. Whether it's video gamers who find a love for board games, graphic designers who screen-print for fun, or the thousands of hobbyists who sell their sewn, stitched and otherwise handmade goods, entertainment-seekers in Chicago and beyond are turning off their gadgets and turning back the clock with retro hobbies.

Once viewed as a fringe activity, crafting items such as clothes, jewelry and paper products now is accepted as a hip and viable source of merchandise, said Danny Orendorff, assistant coordinator of Chicago's Renegade Craft Fair, a traveling carnival of handmade commerce that takes over Division Street in Wicker Park one weekend a summer and returns around the holidays.

Renegade began in Chicago eight years ago with 75 vendor booths. In 2009, the organization hosted seven fairs in five cities, with an average of 275 booths at each.

Orendorff credits DIY site etsy.com for the flourishing handmade culture. Something of a mecca for handmade online commerce, etsy.com announced in a recent report that \$180 million in goods was sold on the site in 2009, up 105 percent from the previous year.

"It took a while for people to understand that just because something is handmade it's not a flimsy piece of junk," he said.

Screen printing and bookbinding have become so popular that several graduates of Columbia College's Center for Book and Paper Arts have turned their Chicago studios into spaces from which they sell their wares and offer classes, according to April Sheridan, a studio technician at Columbia. No Coast Collective in Pilsen, Spudnick Press in Ukrainian Village, and Evanston Print and Paper are just a few examples of the boom in old-fashioned bookbinding.

"All of those places started with just a few people who had a common interest in printing, but it's grown exponentially," Sheridan said.

So with all of the modern hobbies available, why are more people passing their free time with activities that have been around for decades—or even centuries?

Former video gamer and IT worker Linda Schmidt just got sick of staring at a screen.

"I couldn't stand being in front of a computer anymore, or a TV," she said. "I totally dropped it, and I haven't picked it back up."

Schmidt turned to board gaming—something she picked up during her and her husband's courtship—and in 2008 the couple opened Cat & Mouse, a Bucktown storefront stacked floor-to-ceiling with non-electronic games.

Most customers are in their 20s and 30s, she estimated.

"I've been playing board games off and on since I was a kid," Schmidt said. "That's one nice thing about board games—you can do them for your whole life."

Jessica Herman, 28, a dabbler in retro hobbies, uses the activities to unwind. She has taken a bookbinding class, owns a sewing machine, occasionally belongs to a book club and is no stranger to a Scrabble game. The past few years, she's been knitting with a group of friends.

"I'm not attempting to do any complicated patterns," she said. "I just pick something that's pretty mindless, and it's a way for me to feel like I'm being productive while also relaxing."

NATE MARTIN IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



THERE'S NOT AN APP FOR THAT

Looking for a break from the Internet Age? Want to try something kitschy and fun? Hobbies from the days of yore are popping up all over Chicago. Many deal with the creation of crafts—you know, making stuff with your hands—but some are simply sociable ways to pass the time with friends. RedEye picked out a handful of potential resources to get you started on the path to a new old hobby. **N.M.**

Euro gaming

Some of us might associate board games with children and nerds, but they always have been a popular activity for adults in Europe, local board game fans say. German imports such as "Settlers of Catan" and "Ticket to Ride" are redefining board gaming in the U.S.

Cat & Mouse

2212 W. Armitage Ave., 773-384-4454
cat-n-mouse.com

Located in Bucktown, one of Chicago's premier non-electronic game shops hosts a game night from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Tuesdays. Participants can play any game in the store, and the \$5 participation fee is refundable for credit toward any Cat & Mouse purchase.

Guthrie's Tavern

1300 W. Addison St., 773-477-2900
guthriestavern.tripod.com

The Lakeview bar boasts a boisterous board game scene, with more than 50 games on hand. Its [meetup.com](http://meetup.com/chicagoeuroboardgames) group for euro games on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month is one of the most popular game nights in the city (meetup.com/chicagoeuroboardgames).

Get inked

Yes, we know "Print" is under the "File" menu, but other types of printing—with screens, wood or metal type, and ink—can be great ways to create gifts or something fancy for your home, like a poster, card or shirt.

Columbia Center for Book and Paper Arts

1104 S. Wabash Ave., 2nd Floor, 312-369-6630
colum.edu/book_and_paper

Columbia College hosts one of three graduate programs for book and paper arts in the country, and also provides classes—along with world-class staff and facilities—for members of the community. Start with one of its "cheap day" courses in bookbinding or papermaking for \$25 (materials included).

Spudnik Press

1821 W. Hubbard St., Suite 308, 312-532-0304
spudnikpress.com

The Ukrainian Village business is among the most developed of the studios-turned-workshops in Chicago. Classes focus mostly on screen printing and include one for posters, one for T-shirts and one for kids. Start with Spudnik's one-day T-shirt screen printing class for \$60 (BYO shirts).

Get your
board game
on at Guthrie's
Tavern.

KATE DOUGHERTY
FILE PHOTO FOR REDEYE



Jenny Whaley (right) teaches Ashley Tadje how to crochet at Mother's Too, where Whaley started a weekly "stitch 'n' bitch" night. **NOLAN WELLS FOR REDEYE**

Bust a folk move

Do you fancy footwork? Try a dance that's fun, exhilarating and social without the potential creep factor of strangers rubbing up on you. Folk dancing (Think "O Brother, Where Art Thou?") isn't only for the country anymore.

Contra dancing at the University of Chicago

Ida Noyes Hall, 1212 E. 59th St., fac.uchicago.edu

Americana bursts from the seams of this dance organized by the U. of C. Folk Arts Community. Rip-roaring banjo and contra dance callers keep dozens of students and visitors alike do-si-doing into the night. (Contra, for the uninitiated, is a combination of folk dances in which dancers stand in parallel lines opposite their partners.) Admission is \$6 for non-students, \$3 for students, the first Saturday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Barn dance at Bethany Church

4250 N. Paulina St., 312-405-9173, chicagobarndance.com

This church-basement session is a lively remnant of Chicago's Midwest heritage. It's a cross-generational affair, and the experts who run the instructional sessions are drawing on at least 30 years' experience. Admission is \$7. Instruction begins at 7:30 p.m. each Monday.



Stitch 'n' bitch

Forget "Sl," "Tog," "Inc" and those other crazy instructional anachronisms. Modern-day knitters learn with each other, in groups—often with the help of a cocktail or cup of tea.

Kopi Traveler's Cafe

5317 N Clark St., 773-989-5674

This cozy Andersonville cafe boasts a number of delectable treats and teas to sip while honing your knitting skills. The worldly ambience might prompt you make yourself some warm duds, rent a llama and head for the Andes. The group meets 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays. BYO materials.

Mother's Too

14 W. Division St., 312-266-7444

Drink specials and projected tutorials are just two reasons to frequent this crochet-centric stitch 'n' bitch, called Happy Hookers. Future plans include guest expert appearances to bring beginners and intermediate crafters up to the next level. The group meets 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays. Bring your own materials or buy them on-site for a small fee.

metromix

the it LIST

WHAT'S HOT THIS WEEKEND

BY LISA BALDE

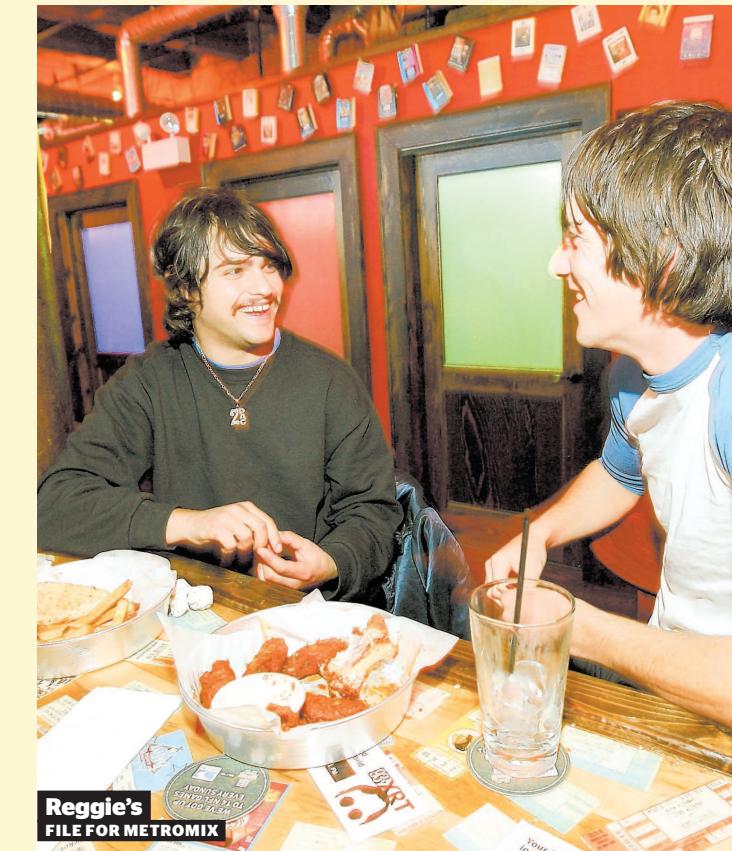
LISA BALDE IS THE METROMIX PRINT EDITOR
LBALDE@TRIBUNE.COM

DRINK TO IT

Pub-crawling for Haiti

Hood: Lakeview

If you're gonna drink, you might as well drink for a good cause. Join a crew of pub-crawlers making their way through 14 bars Saturday in the name of Illinois-based Friends of the Orphans to raise money for supplies at St. Damien Medical Center/Pediatric Hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Get your butt out the door to catch them at the start of the crawl (11:30 a.m.) at **Schubas** (3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508) or meet up throughout the day. For a full list of destinations, go to metromix.com. Buy a wristband when you arrive, and you're cleared for drink specials for the crawl's duration, including \$3 Miller Lite drafts and \$4 lemon drop shots from 12:15-1 p.m. at **Schoolyard** (3258 N. Southport Ave.). Includes raffles and an after-party at **Messner's Wrigleyville** (3553 N. Southport Ave. 773-325-0123). **When:** 11:30 a.m.-10:15 p.m. Saturday **Cash:** \$10 wristband



Reggie's
FILE FOR METROMIX



Zach Deputy

SHOP IT

Valentine Market

Hoods: West Loop, East Village

Time's a-ticking to find the all-important Valentine's Day gift. If your rock-solid relationship is to the point where roses are too tacky and chocolates seem too bland, choose a unique trinket worthy of your romance at the **Valentine Market at Journeymen Plumber's Hall** (1340 W. Washington Blvd.). Powered by the organizers of Randolph Street Market Festival, this inaugural fair features high-end vintage jewelry, handmade bags, designer outerwear and DIY bric-a-brac with a lovey dovey edge. If the steampunk offerings here won't satisfy your cutie's goth leanings, look to the **February Craft Fairy**, this month's installation of the gothic arts fair at 1901 Gallery Theatre (1901 W. Belmont Ave.) and your one-stop spot for parasols, jewelry, hats and darkly romantic cards. **When:** 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday; 3-8 p.m. Sunday (Craft Fairy) **Cash:** \$10, purchase tickets at chicagoantiquemarket.com for \$8; \$1 donation (Craft Fairy)



Randolph Street Market



WATCH IT

Super Bowl XLIV

Hoods: South Loop, Lincoln Park, Hyde Park

So you're a Saints fan. Or a Colts lover. Or heck, you can't name either team's quarterback, but you know Kim Kardashian's watching so you'll be by her side via a Chicago barstool. Whatever your reason for taking in football's main event, you'll need sustenance to make it through to the fourth quarter. Fill your belly at the \$10 all-you-can-eat buffet at **Reggie's Rock Club** (2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120) and amuse yourself during the half-time, wing-and-sloppy joe eating contest. All you betting types will want to meet RedEye and Metromix at **Duffy's Bar and Grill** (420 W. Diversey Pkwy. 773-549-9090) for our Squares Tournament. Drink a Bud Light and turn in your bottle for a square. At **Park 52** (5201 S. Harper Ave. 773-241-5200), buy a raffle ticket (\$5 for one, \$20 for five) to benefit the Israel Idonije Foundation and get the chance to win dinner with Bears defensive tackle Israel Idonije and Bears merch given away each quarter.

When: 11 a.m. (Reggie's), 10 a.m. (Duffy's), 4 p.m. (Park 52) Sunday

Cash: No cover, package prices vary

AVOID IT

Super Bowl XLIV

Hoods: Lincoln Park, Lakeview, Pilsen

Need to get away from the Super Bowl's fist-pumping, beer-chugging chaos? Head to romantic fondue spot **Geja's Cafe** (340 W. Armitage Ave. 773-281-9101) for the anti-Super Bowl deal—buy an entree and get one of equal or lesser value free. Then take a chance on South Carolina tour vet Zach Deputy at **Schubas** (3159 N. Southport Ave.) and lose yourself in his toe-tapping melting pot of soul, reggae, hip-hop and rock. Ladies, need a drink? **Simone's Bar** (960 W. 18th St.) hosts a No Boys Allowed bash showing "Sex and the City" reruns. **When:** 4:30 p.m. (Geja's Cafe), 8 p.m. (Schubas), 4:30 p.m. (Simone's) Sunday **Cash:** Prices vary; \$10 cover for Zach Deputy at Schubas

EAT IT

New grilled cheese sammies

Hood: Gold Coast

Need a quick, lunchtime warmup? The 30-minute Executive Lunch menu at **Markethouse** (611 N. Fairbanks Ct. 312-224-2200) now includes a favorite winter combo: grilled cheese and soup (\$7). But this isn't the white bread and canned tomato soup of your childhood. Seven sandwich options include brie and spiced apple with arugula and cranberry jam, and fresh mozzarella with smoked tomato chutney and arugula pesto.

Soup choices include smoked cauliflower and butternut squash. Don't you feel all warm and cozy just thinking about it?

When: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday (also available Monday-Friday)

Cash: \$7 for a sandwich and soup

the juice

Mercadito
108 W. Kinzie St.
312-329-9555



LOVED IT: Flan de cajeta with raisins (\$5)

HATED IT:
Slow service

BRUNCH TIME:
11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday

COST: About \$30 per person with cocktail, appetizer and dessert

WAIT: None

Slow starter

By Lisa Balde

There's a lot to be said for a slow, easy brunch—especially after a hard night out. And now that River North's Mercadito offers its 4-month-old Sunday brunch on Saturdays too, there's relief in the form of steak tacos and tequila-spiked bloody marys all weekend long.

The good news is that this New York-bred Mexican eatery is ready to meet your morning-after needs with an \$18 "hangover cure" deal that pairs any of the menu's eggy, carb-heavy entrees (regularly \$12 each) with one of five breakfast cocktails (regularly \$8 each). There's even a section on the menu aimed right at you, Miss 2 a.m. Jager Nightcap: Para la Cruda (for the raw), which includes hangover-minimizing chilaquiles verdes (we suggest adding the optional fried egg for \$2) and caldo de camarón (tequila-spiked spicy shrimp broth).

The bad news: You'll have to wait for it. And not just for a few minutes,



either. Though dining at the caliber to which Mercadito aspires requires some finesse—and the slick decor and meticulous tequila selection certainly signal you're not at some 24-hour diner—service is sluggish. If only we'd had a basket of warm tortilla chips from the guacamole counter (just steps away!) to help pass the time.

The solution? Order at least one of three guacamoles (\$7.50 for one, \$9.50 for two)—first because chips here aren't complimentary, and second because the mango guac is a must. The sweet-salty mix of jicama, chipotle and pico de gallo



Mercadito
JASON LITTLE
FOR METROMIX

pairs well with not-too-salty chips and beckons a morning cocktail. To that end, our server recommended the Maria Sangrita, a thin version of a bloody mary made with pomegranate, green chiles, tomatoes, cucumbers, oranges and tequila. If you like your drinks spicy, this one's for you. If not, try the Auntie Ox, true to its name thanks to green tea-infused vodka.

Either drink works well with estrel-

ados y tampiquena, organic skirt steak alongside rows of sunny side up eggs and spicy potato-cactus queso fundido served with warm corn tortillas. The only thing that satisfied us more was dessert: flan de cajeta (goat's milk caramel) with bites of pound cake and raisins. We'd return for the smooth, thick custard any day of the week, even if it means we'd have to wait for it. **LISA BALDE**
THE METROMIX PRINT EDITOR. LBALDE@TRIBUNE.COM

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METROMIX'S TOP SHOWS

AM TAXI

Local rockers could have a big year. With Royal Bangs, Big Science. 7 p.m. Sat. \$10-\$12. Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-525-2508.

THOMAS IAN NICHOLAS

Read our interview with the "Rookie of the Year" star at metromix.com. Bottle of Justus headlines, Nice Peter, Erica Iozzo open. 9 p.m. Sat. \$10. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

THE ACADEMY IS...

Hometown heroes return. With Sing It Loud. 6:30 p.m. Sat. \$25. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0203.

MAVIS STAPLES

She's a legend. All you need to say. With Typhanie Monique. 8 p.m. Sat. \$34-\$38. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.

DESIGNER DRUGS, MIDNIGHT CONSPIRACY, SKYLER, BROKEN DISCO 1980, PUNKY FRESH, MARTIN MALAFAKTOR'S BIRTHDAY RAGER AND OTHERS

A heck of a dance party. 11 p.m. Sat. \$8-\$10. Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-525-2508.

TICKETBOOTH Your on-sale concert guide

twitter: @metromixchi

ON SALE
10 A.M. SATURDAY

ALO, Friday, May 28 (\$15, 21+) at Martyrs.

Cobra Starship, 3OH!3, Travis McCoy, Jump Smokers, more, Saturday, May 15 (Price TBA, all ages) at Northerly Island's Charter One Pavilion.

Ray Davies, Saturday, March 13 (\$49.50, 18+) at Riviera Theatre.

Drive By Truckers, Langhorne Slim, Friday, April 9 (\$26, 18+) at Vic Theatre.

David Garrett, Wednesday, March 17 (\$40, all ages) at Park West.

Imelda May, Monday, March 15 (\$15, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Ingrid Michaelson, Mat Kearney, Cara Salimando, Friday,



Sia

April 2 (\$30, all ages) at Riviera Theatre.

Joanna Newsom, Saturday, April 3 (\$25, all ages) at Vic Theatre.

Corinne Bailey Rae, Thursday, April 22 (\$26, 18+) at Vic Theatre.

Martin Sexton, Ryan Montbleau Band, Wednesday, March 17

Friday, April 23 (\$27, 18+) at Park West.

Trainwreck, Saturday, March 13 (\$12, 21+) at Martyrs'.

ON SALE
NOON SATURDAY

Beer Nuts, Church Key, Stoop Goodnoise, Wednesday, March 17

(\$10, 21+) at Double Door.

The Foreign Exchange, Thursday, April 15 (\$22-\$25, 21+) at Double Door.

Frightened Rabbit, Saturday, May 8 (\$15-\$18, 18+) at Metro.

Local H, Sunday, May 23 (\$13-\$15, all ages) at Metro.

Loyal Divide, Letting Up Despite Great Faults, City At Large, Wednesday, March 10 (\$7, 21+) at Double Door.

ON SALE NOW

The Album Leaf, Sea Wolf, Sunday, April 25 (\$14, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.

The Apples in Stereo, Generational, Laminated Cat, Friday, April 30 (\$14, 21+) at Lincoln Hall.

Dan and Matt Wilson, Saturday, March 27 (\$25, 21+) at Schubas.

Florence and the Machine, Holy Hail, Monday, April 12 (\$18-\$21, all ages) at House of Blues.

FlosstradPROMus, Friday, Feb. 12 (\$7, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.

Jeffrey Foucault, Saturday, April 17 (\$12-\$14, 21+) at Schubas.

Chelsea Handler, Sunday, April 11 (\$49.50-\$75, all ages) at Rosemont Theatre.

HIM, We Are the Fallen, Dommin, Drive A, Friday, April 9 (\$26-\$28, all ages) at House of Blues.

Love Me Electric, Mathletes, Dear Noel, Friday, Feb. 26 (\$10-\$12, all ages) at House of Blues.

The Red Sparowes, Wednesday, April 21 (\$12, 21+) at Lincoln Hall.

Roman Candle, Locksley, Thursday, March 25 (\$8-\$10, 18+) at Schubas.

The Show is the Rainbow, The Terror Pigeon Dance Revolt, The Shakes, Skything, Sunday, April 11 (\$8-\$10, 18+) at Schubas.

Sia, Sunday, April 25 (\$22.50, all ages) at Vic Theatre.

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AP PHOTO

Lil GAIN

LOVE IT

SONG DOWNLOAD Islands (Falty DL Remix)

<http://tinyurl.com/ykw2zqe>

FaltyDL produced one of the finest electronic music albums with the dubstep-drenched "Love is a Liability," and London's the xx (below) released arguably the best debut album of 2009 in "xx." So what a delicious pairing this is—FaltyDL remixing the xx's "Islands," one of the signature tunes on "xx."

SARAH ZUPKO,
POPMATTERS.
COM



ALBUM The Soft Pack

The Soft Pack

Formerly known as the Muslims, San Diego's Soft Pack traffics in the sort of jagged indie rock that sends hipsters' hearts aflutter. Their Kemado Records debut softens their previous rock edge just a smidgen and ups the pop quotient. The band is on its way to generating major blog buzz.

SARAH ZUPKO,
POPMATTERS.COM

LIKE IT

BOOK

I Am an Emotional Creature

Eve Ensler

In this series of monologues (due out Feb. 9), Eve Ensler, author of "The Vagina Monologues," imagines the voices of teenage girls from around the world. These are sorrowful voices, and the waste is everywhere: waste of beauty, talent, grace. Sometimes their powerful exuberance rises up and you believe they have a shot at happiness.

SUSAN SALTER REYNOLDS, L.A. TIMES

LOATHE IT

ALBUM

Who I Am

Nick Jonas and the Administration

The Jonas Brothers succeed because they sound believable singing for and about young adults. Nick Jonas and The Administration's "Who I Am" struggles because it usually sounds like young Nick making music for his grandparents. He should stick to who he is. GLENN GAMBOA, NEWSDAY

DVD AND BLU-RAY Amelia

Available now

Mira Nair's "Amelia," starring two-time Oscar winner Hilary Swank in the title role, is an attempt to make sure that Amelia Earhart will be remembered, particularly by young women. But "Amelia" never manages to get beyond the simple idea that Earhart flew as part of her life's search for freedom and independence. Too often, Nair tells Earhart's story in a rote, predictable manner.

BRUCE DANCIS, MCT

By Glenn Gamboa

NEWSDAY

It's not as easy to rock as Lil Wayne thinks it is, as his oft-delayed "rock" record "Rebirth" painfully proves.

For a rapper who can cut to the quick and shine with only the sparest of accompaniment, too much of "Rebirth" is bloated with Weezy noodling needlessly on his guitar the way many kids do when they first learn to play.

What makes "Rebirth" even more maddening than when he gets everything wrong—as he does in the faux-Evanescence "Runnin'" or the overindulgent "American Star"—is when Wayne gets everything right.

"Knockout" sounds like an ambitious update of Prince's great "I Could Never Take the Place of Your Man" that kicks into a higher gear with an awesome freakout from Nicki Minaj. "On Fire" works an unlikely sample from Amy Holland's "She's on Fire" from the "Scarface" soundtrack into a nice groove. And "Drop the World" not only comes the closest to the kind of flash Weezy showed in the multiplatinum breakthrough of "Tha Carter III," but it also gives Eminem his most potent platform in years.

With songs this good on "Rebirth," why does Wayne makes us suffer through so much halfhearted, unworthy stuff? The annoying punk of "Get a Life" could have been written by countless new garage bands, while "Ground Zero" is like a clumsy Limp Bizkit reunion that no one wants.

The bright side is that now that "Rebirth" is out of the way and his jail sentence on felony gun charges is set to start next week, Weezy can hopefully soon focus once again on what he's great at—hip-hop.



ALBUM Rebirth

Lil Wayne





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Organize your mind and the rest will follow



MCT FILE

out to the Container Store and drop a couple hundred bucks on what Tina Fey once dubbed "decorganizing," start by centering yourself and tackling small projects you'll be able to finish.

Give yourself a reason to get organized

If you're putting off a project, it's probably not a top priority in your life. Make it matter by giving yourself a reason to finish. When my home slides into a frumpy slump, I schedule a party. Just knowing that I'll eventually have to let other people see my apartment motivates me to start cleaning.

Take a nap

If you're overtired or stressed out, you're not going to get much done, no matter how much you want to. Schedule some time to recharge before you try to take on a new project.

Start small

Begin with projects that can be finished in an hour or an afternoon, and listen to music to make the job go faster. Clear out a drawer, straighten up your medicine cabinet or declutter one surface. Finishing a small job gives you a sense of accomplishment—you'll feel your energy level rise.

Edit first, organize later

Many people think that if they can just wrangle all the stuff in their house and sort it into boxes, everything will fall into place. The problem is that stuff begets stuff—all those stacks of magazines need shelves to hold them; all those Tupperware containers need cabinet space. Everything you get rid of is one less thing taking up your time, space and money. Think of your main task as clearing and cleaning, rather than organizing, and the rest will take care of itself.

Situation: My home is a mess, but I don't have time to organize it.

Solution: Take a break, set small goals and start getting rid of stuff.

At this point in the year, people have begun to give up on their New Year's resolutions and revert to their old ways. If you planned to get organized and your home still looks like it was hit by a hurricane, you're not alone.

Disorganization is the result of physical and emotional stuff that's been building up over time, and dealing with it can be stressful. Rather than succumbing to the urge to run


**fast
paised**
MATT PAIS
mpais
@tribune.com

DEAR JOHN
(PG-13)


Routine romance goes the distance

Tough-guy-with-a-soft-side John (Channing Tatum) and pretty-girl-with-a-good-heart Savannah (Amanda Seyfried) enjoy a whirlwind two-week affair with awful timing: She's going back to college, and he's heading back into military service. If that's not fodder for a nakedly emotional story of star-crossed love, I don't know what is.

The buzz: If you love nothing but action movies, dramas based on Nicholas Sparks books ("The Notebook," "Nights in Rodanthe") probably aren't for you. This one, at least, comes from not-always-corny director Lasse Hallstrom ("The Hoax") and stars two legitimate up-and-comers. Bonus: Character actor and DeKalb native Richard

Jenkins ("The Visitor") as John's dad.

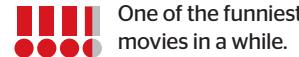
The verdict: Of course it's sappy and broad, but "Dear John" also isn't bogged down with an overbearing score or numerous shots of people crying and then crying some more. It's just a good love story featuring stars who have great chemistry. That goes a long way in this sort of thing, which will hit you harder if you're currently spending or have ever spent time away from a significant other. One lesson, however, for future long-distance romance movies: Never point out that you're both looking at the same moon unless you want to be compared to "An American Tail."

MATT PAIS IS THE METROMIX MOVIES PRODUCER.


**Channing Tatum
and Amanda Seyfried**
SONY PICTURES

Worth watching?

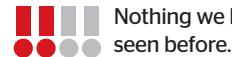
MATT'S PICKS FOR WHAT'S ALSO IN THEATERS

MYSTERY TEAM (R)


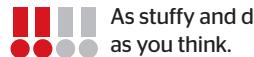
One of the funniest movies in a while.

FISH TANK (NR)


Katie Jarvis is incredible.

FROZEN (R)


Nothing we haven't seen before.

THE LAST STATION (R)


As stuffy and dull as you think.

WHEN IN ROME (PG-13)

WANT MORE?
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MOTION PICTURE DIRECTORY

Handicapped Access ◆ Digital Sound ✓ Dolby Stereo ★ No Passes ⚡ Hearing - Impaired
G - General audience PG - Parental guidance suggested PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13
R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian

600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)

600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily. &
■ Dear John (PG-13) 11:00, 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 10:10
■ From Paris With Love (R) 10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
■ Edge of Darkness (R) 10:10, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45
■ Legion (R) 10:20, 11:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00
■ The Book of Eli (R) 10:50, 2:00, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40
■ Daybreakers (R) 10:40, 10:50
■ It's Complicated (R) 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
■ Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 1:40, 4:40, 7:40
■ AMC Select Up in the Air (R) 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:20
■ Avatar 3D (PG-13) 11:15, 2:45, 6:30, 10:00

**LANDMARK CENTURY
CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)**

2828 North Clark St., Chicago
(773) 509-4949
■ The Last Station (R) 11:10, 1:45, 4:25, 7:00, 9:30
■ Broken Embraces (R) 1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00
■ The White Ribbon (R) 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 9:40
■ Crazy Heart (R) 11:15, 1:55, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05
■ A Single Man (R) 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:40, 10:15
■ Nine (PG-13) 4:20, 9:50
■ An Education (PG-13) 11:00, 1:40, 7:15
■ The Young Victoria (PG) 11:05, 1:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45

CITY NORTH 14 (KERASOTES)

2600 N. Western Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1642

■ The Metropolitan Opera: Simon Boccanegra - Live (NR) * 12:00 P.M.
■ Dear John (PG-13) 9:50, 12:30, 3:20, 6:30, 9:20
■ From Paris With Love (R) * 11:45, 1:20, 2:40, 4:00, 5:30, 7:10, 8:15, 9:50, 10:45
■ Edge of Darkness (R) * 2:50, 6:10, 7:20, 9:10, 10:10
■ When in Rome (PG-13) * (Closed caption) 11:10, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00
■ Legion (R) 11:20, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:10
■ Tooth Fairy (PG) 10:20, 1:30, 3:40, 6:20, 9:00
■ The Book of Eli (R) 10:40, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
■ The Spy Next Door (PG) 11:00
■ Daybreakers (R) 7:45, 10:20
■ Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 10:50, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:50
■ Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) 10:15, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20
■ Avatar 3D (PG-13) 10:30, 12:00, 2:20, 3:30, 6:00, 7:00, 9:30, 10:30
■ The Princess and the Frog (G) 10:00, 12:20
■ The Blind Side (PG-13) 11:15, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:00

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)

4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893
■ Crazy Heart (R) 12:30, 2:30, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
■ Dear John (PG-13) * 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
■ Edge of Darkness (R) * 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
■ Up in the Air (R) 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:45

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

S. Cicero at 76th, Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily
■ Dear John (PG-13) 11:25, 2:00, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35
■ From Paris With Love (R) 11:55, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
■ When in Rome (PG-13) 11:05, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
■ Edge of Darkness (R) 11:00, 1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40
■ Tooth Fairy (PG) 11:40, 2:10, 4:00, 7:20, 9:45
■ Legion (R) 11:30, 1:20, 4:50, 7:00, 9:30
■ The Book of Eli (R) 11:50, 2:20, 5:15, 8:30, 10:00
■ The Lovely Bones (PG-13) 11:50, 3:10, 6:15, 9:10
■ The Spy Next Door (PG) 11:00, 1:15, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45

PIPER'S ALLEY (AMC)

1608 N. Wells, Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily
■ AMC Select Preacher's Kid (PG-13) 11:00, 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
■ AMC Select The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG-13) 11:10, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
■ Invictus (PG-13) 10:40, 1:30, 4:25, 7:15, 10:10
■ AMC Select Precious: Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire (R) 11:45, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily
■ The Metropolitan Opera: Simon Boccanegra (NR) 12:00 P.M.

WEBSTER PLACE (KERASOTES)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1641
■ The Metropolitan Opera: Simon Boccanegra - Live (NR) * 12:00 P.M.
■ Dear John (PG-13) * 11:00, 12:45, 1:45, 3:30, 4:20, 6:15, 7:15, 9:00, 10:00
■ Edge of Darkness (R) * 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 5:30, 6:30, 7:20, 9:30, 10:15
■ The Book of Eli (R) 10:10, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
■ The Lovely Bones (PG-13) 11:30, 2:20, 5:00, 6:45, 9:15
■ It's Complicated (R) 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:40
■ Up in the Air (R) 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 8:00, 10:45
■ Avatar 3D (PG-13) 11:50, 3:15, 6:50, 10:20
■ The Blind Side (PG-13) 9:45, 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:45

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER

164 State Street
(312) 846-2800
■ Beeswax (NR) 3:00, 5:00, 7:45
■ Mr. Hulot's Holiday (NR) 3:00 P.M.
■ Jou de fete (NR) 4:45 P.M.
■ Blackmail (NR) 8:00 P.M.

LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628
■ The Spy Next Door (PG) 2:15, 4:15, 6:15, 8:20
■ Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) 2:05, 4:05, 6:05, 8:10
■ The Hurt Locker (R) 8:30 P.M.
■ Up in the Air (R) 2:05, 4:15, 6:25, 8:40
■ The Princess and the Frog (G) 2:10, 4:10, 6:10
■ The Book of Eli (R) 10:40, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
■ The Spy Next Door (PG) 11:00
■ Daybreakers (R) 7:45, 10:20
■ Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 10:50, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:50
■ Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) 10:15, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20
■ Fish Tank (NR) 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
■ The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG-13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
■ Mystery Team (R) 12:00, 2:00
■ Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) 11:30, 12:00
■ Le Cercle Rouge (NR) 11:30 A.M.

MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604
■ Fish Tank (NR) 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
■ The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG-13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
■ Mystery Team (R) 12:00, 2:00
■ Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) 11:30, 12:00
■ Le Cercle Rouge (NR) 11:30 A.M.

CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #2309
■ Dear John (PG-13) * 10:30, 11:15, 1:10, 2:20, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 7:50, 9:50, 10:20
■ From Paris With Love (R) * 9:45, 11:15, 12:30, 2:00, 3:10, 4:30, 5:30, 7:10, 8:30, 9:30, 12:15
■ Edge of Darkness (R) * 10:00, 12:50, 3:40, 6:40, 7:40, 9:30, 10:10, 12:10
■ When in Rome (PG-13) * 9:50, 12:20, 4:20, 5:20, 8:00, 10:15, 12:30
■ The Book of Eli (R) 10:20, 11:10, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 6:00, 7:00, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30
■ The Spy Next Door (PG) 10:20, 11:10, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 6:00, 7:00, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30
■ The Book of Eli (R) 10:20, 11:10, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 6:00, 7:00, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30
■ The Lovely Bones (PG-13) 10:15, 1:15, 4:20, 7:15, 10:15, 12:15
■ Up in the Air (R) 10:20, 11:10, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 6:00, 7:00, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30
■ Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) 9:55, 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:00, 9:00, 11:50
■ Avatar 3D (PG-13) 11:30, 12:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 6:00, 7:00, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30
■ The Blind Side (PG-13) 10:50, 1:50, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40
■ Precious: Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire (R) 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 10:40

CICERO SHOWPLACE 14 (KERASOTES)

4779 W. Cermak, Cicero
(800) 326-3264 #1644
■ Dear John (PG-13) * 10:15, 1:15, 4:10, 7:15, 9:50
■ From Paris With Love (R) * 10:40, 11:40, 1:20, 2:20, 4:00, 5:00, 6:40, 7:40, 9:20, 10:20
■ Edge of Darkness (R) * 10:50, 12:30, 1:40, 3:20, 4:45, 6:10, 7:30, 9:10, 10:15
■ When in Rome (PG-13) * 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 6:50, 9:30
■ Legion (R) 11:10, 1:10, 4:50, 7:45, 10:10
■ Tooth Fairy (PG) 10:00, 12:40, 3:45, 6:20, 9:00
■ The Book of Eli (R) 10:30, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
■ The Lovely Bones (PG-13) 12:10, 3:10, 6:10, 9:55
■ The Spy Next Door (PG) 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:20, 9:45
■ Daybreakers (R) 7:50, 10:40
■ Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) 11:45, 2:30, 5:15
■ Avatar 3D (PG-13) 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30
■ The Blind Side (PG-13) 9:50, 12:50, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40

OAK PARK LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)

1022 Lake Street, Oak Park
(630) 444-4116
■ Dear John (PG-13) * 11:50, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
■ Edge of Darkness (R) * 11:50, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10
■ Crazy Heart (R) 11:50, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
■ The Book of Eli (R) 10:40, 12:30, 1:40, 3:20, 4:45, 6:10, 7:30, 9:10, 10:20
■ Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40
■ The Book of Eli (R) 2:00, 4:35, 7:25, 10:00
■ Up in the Air (R) 1:30, 4:15, 6:45, 9:10
■ Avatar 3D (PG-13) 11:50, 3:10, 6:30, 9:50

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■ From Paris With Love (R) * 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:20
■ The Blind Side (PG-13) * 12:15, 6:15
■ The Last Station (R) * 11:45, 2:05, 4:55, 7:45, 10:25
■ The Metropolitan Opera: Simon Boccanegra (NR) * 12:00 P.M.
■ A Single Man (R) 11:45, 2:05, 4:35, 7:15, 9:45
■ An Education (PG-13) * 11:50, 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
■ Avatar 3D (PG-13) 1:20, 4:50, 8:20
■ The Book of Eli (R) 11:45, 2:35, 5:05, 7:45, 10:25
■ Crazy Heart (R) 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40
■ Edge of Darkness (R) * 11:25, 2:25, 4:25, 5:25, 7:40, 9:05, 10:35
■ The Spy Next Door (PG) 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:20, 9:45
■ Legion (R) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
■ Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 7:05, 10:00
■ The Book of Eli (R) 1:55, 2:45, 4:45, 7:35, 10:30
■ Tooth Fairy (PG) 11:55, 2:25, 5:00, 7:25, 9:55
■ Up in the Air (R) 11:35, 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, 10:10
■ When in Rome (PG-13) * 12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:55, 10:25

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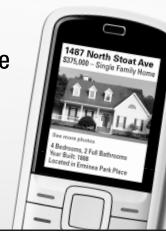
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Ex-'Rookie' elevates his game

By Matt Pais
METROMIX

"Wow! You don't suck."

That's a comment that Thomas Ian Nicholas hears often at his concerts. Not surprising; Nicholas, who tours behind his take on radio-friendly rock and acoustic pop, is best known for his starring roles in "Rookie of the Year" and "American Pie."

In advance of Nicholas' solo acoustic show at Double Door (with Bottle of Justus, Nice Peter and Erica Iozzo), we checked in with the singer-songwriter who, for the next few months, is donating all profits from CD sales to the Red Cross Haiti relief fund.

MATT PAIS IS THE METROMIX MUSIC PRODUCER.

Who's most to blame for the low expectations of actors-turned-singers?

I don't know who's most to blame. I only know that the only successful person that's done it is Jared Leto in 30 Seconds to Mars. ... I'm not blaming anyone, but I think that because of that

THOMAS IAN NICHOLAS

Where: Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave.
When: 9 p.m. Saturday
Tickets: \$10 at doubledoor.com

MORE ONLINE

What to hear Thomas Ian Nicholas' idea for a "Rookie of the Year" sequel? Check out the full interview at metromix.com.

stigma, a lot of people don't even really give my music a chance. They're like, "Ah, I'm not going to go to that show, he probably sucks." And then when they do, they're always pleasantly surprised.

What do people say when they recognize you on the street?

One of the most interesting things is everywhere else in the U.S., and even some other parts of the world that I've been to in recent years, is all about "American Pie." But Chicago ... as well as the rest of the state of Illinois, is all about "Rookie of the Year."

How often do you get asked to try out for the Cubs?

[Laughs] I would say 1 out of 50.

What could you do for the team right now?

I don't know if I'm going to be allowed back. The summer of 2008, I went and threw out the first pitch and sang the seventh-inning stretch and then the Cubs lost.

So I don't think anyone wants me back at Wrigley.

Maybe it just means you need to play instead of sing.

[Laughs] No doubt. I thought for sure they were going to [win the World Series]. I thought the curse was over. The Cubbies are due.

We just don't have enough junior high kids accidentally slipping on baseballs.

Right. Well maybe I just need to enroll in junior high in Chicago and re-enact. ... I could help.

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First lady Michelle Obama (left) and White House executive chef Cristeta Comerford met with culinary students last year as they previewed meals for President Obama's dinner with state governors. **AP FILE PHOTO**

The foodie in chief

White House kitchen gets celeb treatment

Associated Press

Think of it as take-out, but at the presidential level.

Since bringing their well-documented high-end appetites to the White House, President Obama and first lady Michelle Obama have broken new gourmet ground by inviting in a steady stream of the nation's top culinary talents.

It's an experience the chefs say they consider a career achievement.

"You work in the White House and you walk over to the tent and right across to your right, there is the Oval Office," said chef Marcus Samuelsson, who prepared the Obamas' first state dinner in November in

CHEF DISRESPECT?

Former White House executive pastry chef Roland Mesnier said he would feel slighted by guest chefs, who could use their White House experience as a promotional tool or for exposure. "To me it's a slap in the face," he said. "It's an insult."

honor of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Celebrity chef Bobby Flay grilled steaks with President Obama last summer and called the experience "probably my greatest professional moment."

White House executive chef Cristeta

Comerford says she appreciates the talented chefs who visit her kitchen and thinks the exchange makes for good meals.

"Their different style and their repertoire, it's really good to see that," Comerford said.

"Seeing the way they work, the message and technique they offer, it's really a great thing for us."

The Obamas took the trend to TV in January when "Super Chef Battle" visited the White House. Comerford paired with Flay to win a battle over the team of chefs Emeril Lagasse and Mario Batali on the "Iron Chef" episode.

While Comerford has been more visible, the position of White House chef has been largely unknown in the past, said former White House executive chef Walter Scheib, who cooked for Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

"You just don't exist for all intents and purposes," Scheib said. "You are the most famous anonymous chef on Earth. Everybody talks about it, but nobody really knows about it."



The Humane Society is asking people to donate their old furs, which can be used to help comfort sick or orphaned animals, such as these cottontail rabbits.

Old fur gives new hope to needy animals

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Got a fur coat gathering dust? The Humane Society suggests the ultimate recycling—putting it on the backs of other animals.

The Coats for Cubs program by the Humane Society of the United States helps orphaned, injured or sick wildlife by gathering fur coats and using them

for nests, bedding or cuddly replacements for mom and dad. In 2009, 2,687 fur items were donated.

"We use the discarded furs as bedding to give the animals comfort and reduce stress," said Michael Markarian, the agency's chief operating officer in Washington, D.C.

"The fur garments act as a surrogate mother. It is a warm and furry substitute."

The coats go to wildlife rehabilitation centers that take in baby raccoons, chipmunks, squirrels, coyotes, skunks and other animals, and has helped thousands of animals since it began in 2005 with the Fund for Animals.

Markarian said many of the coats are donated by people who find fur to be inhumane—whether the animals are trapped in steel-jawed traps or raised on factory farms.

For those who have fur and no longer want to wear it, "This is a great way for them to give back to the animals," he said.

HOW TO GIVE

The current Coats for Cubs coat drive technically ends on Earth Day, April 22, but the Humane Society will accept coats any time of the year.

sports



watch dog

WHIZZER
redeyesports@tribune.com

Here's what I'm watching this weekend:

NHL
Blackhawks
at St. Louis
7 p.m. Saturday, CSN

NBA
Bulls vs. Miami
7 p.m. Saturday, WGN

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Northwestern vs. Indiana
1:30 p.m. Sunday,
Big Ten Network



SUPER BOWL XLIV
New Orleans vs. Indianapolis
5 p.m. Sunday, CBS

five on one

It's Super Bowl weekend! Our panel will be sweating guacamole till Tuesday. Sign up for weekday Five on Five at redeyechicago.com/facebookfives.



THE TOPIC

LEO EBERSOLE
lebersole@tribune.com

What can the Blackhawks learn by watching the Super Bowl?



PHILLIP THOMPSON
plthompson@tribune.com

If they watch The Who, they'll learn there's a time to walk away from the game and never look back.



TRACY SWARTZ
tswartz@tribune.com

Patrick Kane and the E-Trade baby both go shirtless.



BRIAN MOORE
brmoore@tribune.com

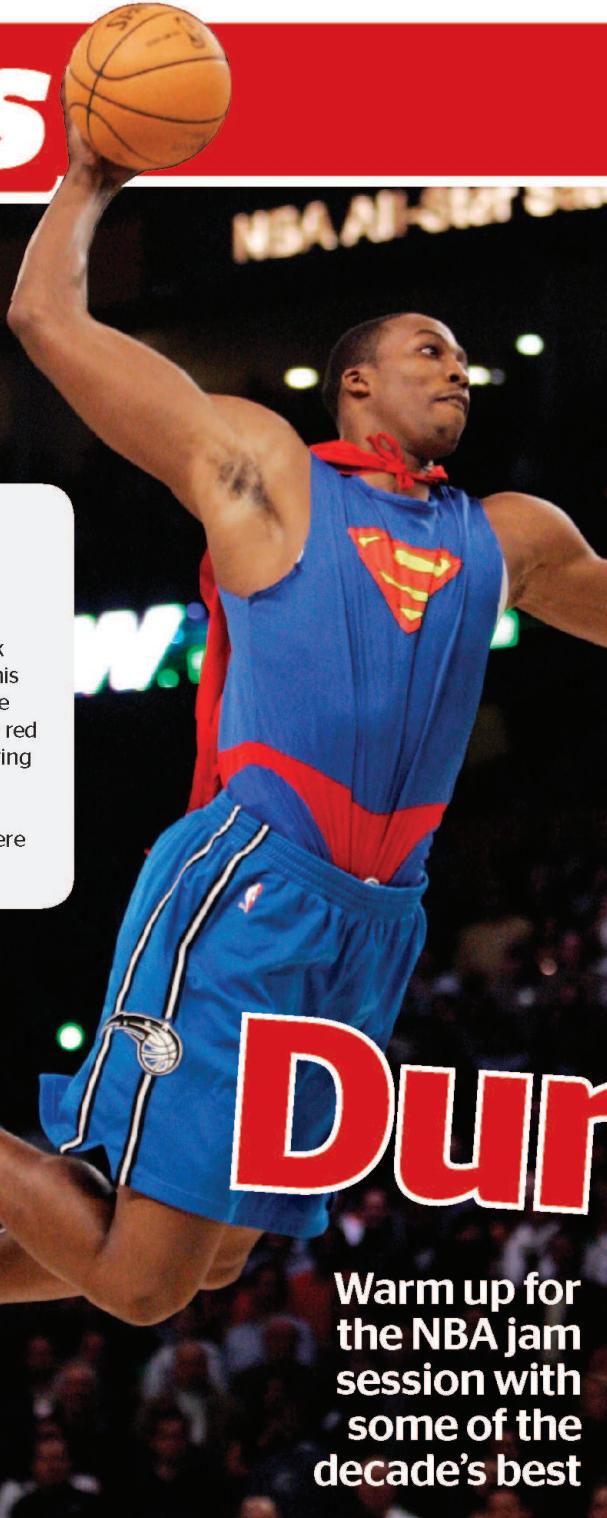
The correct way to show nipple.



SCOTT KLEINBERG
skleinberg@tribune.com

Patrick Kane might actually learn to hit on opposing team members—with his shirt on.

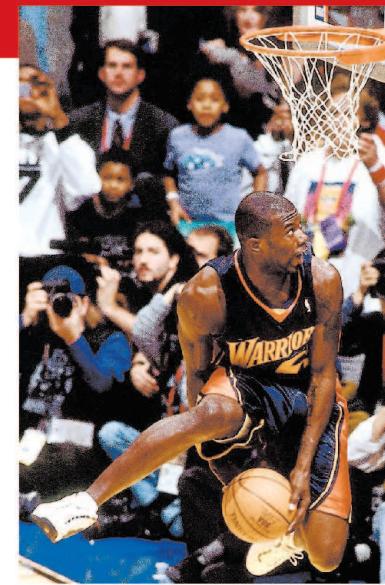
How to score a touchdown—just in case they need to know that sorta thing.



Best Costume

Dwight Howard, 2008

Howard finally took his "Superman" nickname literally in the 2008 dunk contest by stripping off his Magic jersey to reveal the Man of Steel's shirt and a red cape. For his accompanying dunk, Howard glided to the hoop much like his namesake would if he were an NBA star. **AP FILE PHOTO**



Best H.O.R.S.E. Shot

Jason Richardson, 2004

Imagine describing this shot to your opponent in a friendly game of H.O.R.S.E. "Toss the ball at the backboard from the 3-point line, catch it in the air, thread it between your legs and dunk." It sounds ridiculously impossible, but that's exactly what J-Rich pulled off in 2004 to repeat as Slam Dunk champ. **GETTY IMAGES FILE**



Best Use of the Basket

Vince Carter, 2000

Remember the "flexed-arm hang" in kids' fitness tests that meant gripping a pull-up bar without touching the floor? That's sort of like Vinsanity's dunk in 2000, except that Carter started his move by wickedly slamming a ball and his entire forearm into a basket and dangling from the rim. Now that's hang time! **ALLSPORT FILE**

Dunk show

Warm up for the NBA jam session with some of the decade's best

By Ryan Smith
FOR REDEYE

After two weeks of Super Bowl anticipation, what is left to say about Sunday's big game that hasn't already been said? Not much, which is why RedEye has started looking ahead to the NBA's All-Star festivities next weekend—specifically the slam dunk contest. But before we watch two-time winner Nate Robinson square off against Bobcats forward Gerald Wallace, we're taking a look back at three of the best dunks of the past decade.

RYAN SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

txttable



Think you can beat John?
E-mail redyeeditor@tribune.com
or text "John" and your e-mail
address to 87708.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE WITH JOHN WILLIAMS

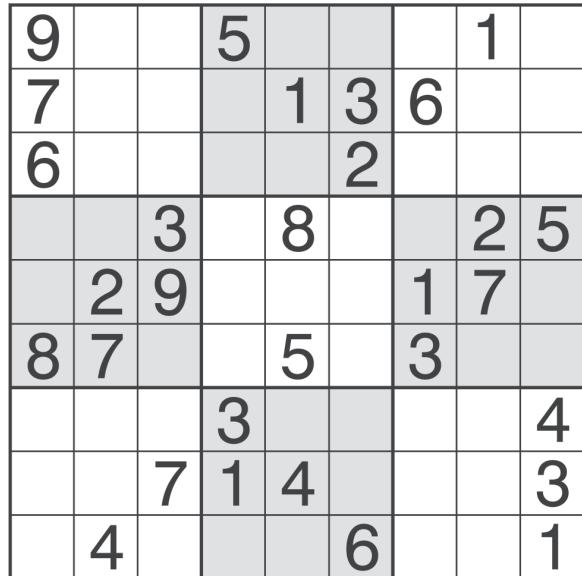
Tune in to John's WGN (720-AM)
show from 9 a.m. to noon

gave up



WANT MORE GAMES?

RedEye's
Puzzle Master
is ready to stump you. Play at
redeyechicago.com/puzzler



DIFFICULTY RATING:

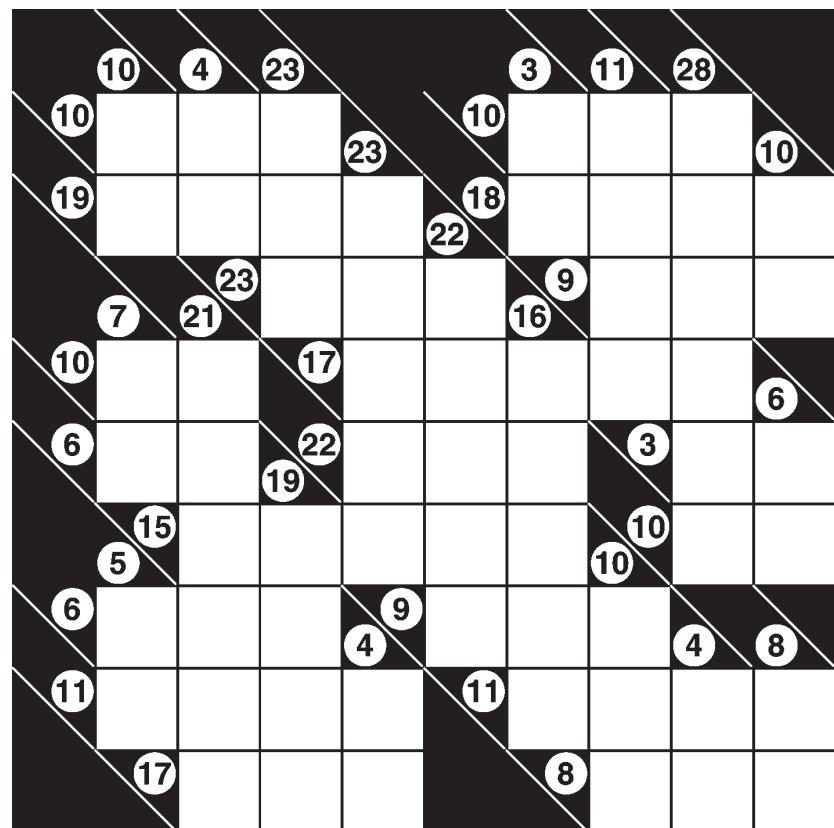
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

FRIDAY'S SOLUTIONS



KAKURO EDITED BY MICHAEL MEPHAM

Enter a number between 1 and 9 in the empty squares. The clues are the numbers in the white circles that give the sum of the solution numbers: above the line are across clues; below the line are down clues. Thus, a clue of 3 will produce a solution of 2 and 1, and a 5 will produce 4 and 1, or 2 and 3, but, of course, which squares they go in will depend on the solution of a clue in the other direction. No digit can be repeated in a solution. Answer at redevechicago.com/puzzles.



ACROSS

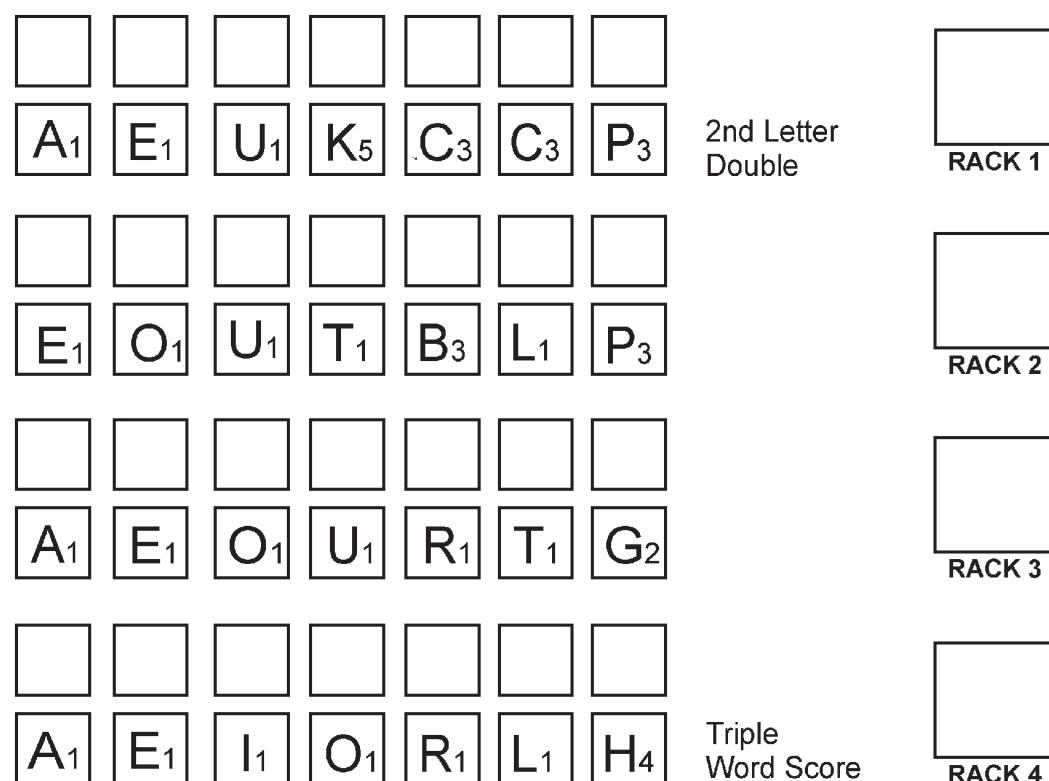
- 1 Taxis
- 5 Lieu
- 10 Tiny pieces
- 14 On the waves
- 15 On the ball
- 16 Jacob's twin
- 17 Compassion
- 18 Part of the brain
- 20 Fri.'s follower
- 21 At what time?
- 22 Counts calories
- 23 Dog-_- like the pages of a well-read book
- 25 Even score
- 26 Attic
- 28 On-again, off-again, as sle
- 31 Unit of light
- 32 Nourishes
- 34 Currently
- 36 Thought
- 37 Embankment
- 38 Sicilian volcano
- 39 Flour container
- 40 Goes out with
- 41 More exposed
- 42 Canada's capital
- 44 Second-largest planet
- 45 Attila the —
- 46 Initial
- 47 Primp
- 50 Secluded valley
- 51 Stylish
- 54 Oral presentation of a story or poem
- 57 In the distance
- 58 Boatmen items
- 59 African nation
- 60 Sledding sport
- 61 Juicy fruit
- 62 "Aida" or "Carmen"
- 63 Stratagem

DOWN

- 1 Head toppers
- 2 Large continent
- 3 Improvement
- 4 Utter
- 5 Packet of perfumed powder
- 6 Rough woolen fabric
- 7 Make a salary
- 8 Common verb

BBLE

SCRABBLE
Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary, 3rd Edition. Find the answer at redquiches.com/puzzles.



**PAR SCORE 145-155
BEST SCORE 218**

FOUR RACK TOTAL _____

whoville

Ad blitz!

Super Bowl commercials load up on star power

We have no idea if you're into watching grown men toss a pigskin around and bash each other's heads in. But we KNOW you like Beyoncé. For that reason—and perhaps that reason only—you might want to tune in to Super Bowl XLIV on Sunday. Yep, this year Beyoncé will lend her star power to a super-flashy, super-expensive Super Bowl ad.

B's not alone. Check out the other celebs you should watch out for during commercial time. As for the actual game? Add to the fun by doing a shot every time the camera pans to Kim Kardashian in the stands.

ARIEL ALEXOVICH, REDEYE



Betty White and Abe Vigoda

Snickers

Three years after its controversial mechanic kiss ad, the candy bar is toning it down—way down—with two lovable octogenarians.

Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo

HomeAway

Griswolds unite! Who better to shill for an online vacation rental company than the famous on-screen couple from "National Lampoon's Vacation"?

The Simpsons

Coca-Cola

Who needs those polar bears when you've got Apu and Mr. Burns? The beverage company's ad features Burns—gasp!—losing his millions, but seeing the brighter side of life after Apu hands him a Coke.

Don Rickles

Teleflora

The legendary comic—and voice of "Toy Story's" Mr. Potato Head—lends his voice talent again, this time to a "box of nasty flowers."

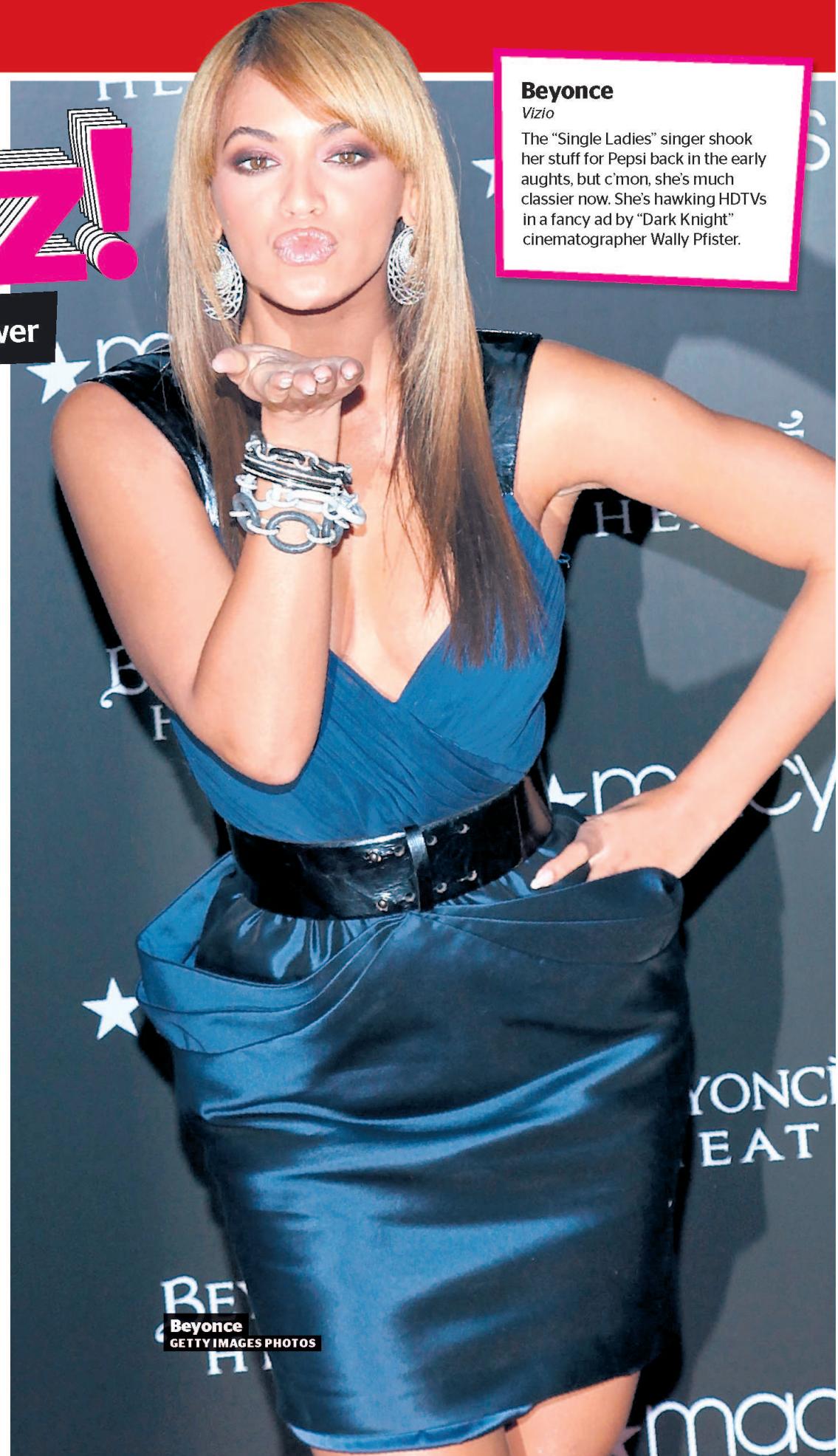
Tracy Morgan

Volkswagen

The "30 Rock" star comes out swinging for the German automaker as Volkswagen revives that old, painful game "punch buggy."

SOURCES: ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER, USA TODAY,

PRNEWSWIRE, L.A. TIMES, WIRED.COM



Beyoncé

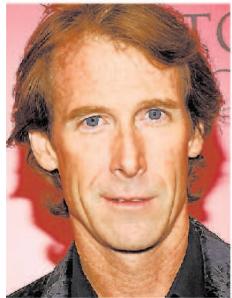
Vizio

The "Single Ladies" singer shook her stuff for Pepsi back in the early aughts, but c'mon, she's much classier now. She's hawking HDTVs in a fancy ad by "Dark Knight" cinematographer Wally Pfister.

Beyoncé
GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

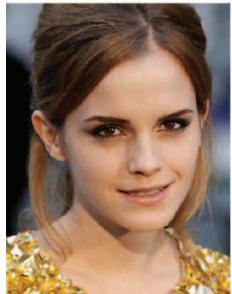
red hot

THE DIGITS



\$125M

Vanity Fair's estimation of how much "Transformers" director Michael Bay (above) earned in 2009, putting him at No. 1 on the mag's list of the year's top Hollywood earners.



\$30M

The magazine's estimated 2009 earnings for "Harry Potter" actress Emma Watson (above), making her the highest-paid woman on the list at No. 14 overall.

Carrie Underwood takes part Thursday in media week for Super Bowl XLIV. GETTY IMAGES

'Star' struck?

Carrie Underwood admits she's nervous about singing the national anthem Sunday at Super Bowl XLIV in Miami.

"My biggest fear is the words," the former "American Idol" winner said, according to USA Today. "Of

course you know the words. But if you're going to mess up, that'd be the time, right?"

Let's hope not. After all, the Super Bowl audience can't be any more intimidating than the "Idol" judges' panel, can it?

» WHICH CELEBS WILL APPEAR IN THIS YEAR'S SUPER BOWL ADS? TURN TO PAGE 23 TO FIND OUT.

'FORK IT OVER

We've got Pitchfork news! Organizers of the Chicago music fest, scheduled for July 16-18 at Grant Park, announced reunited indie rockers Pavement will perform on the final day of the show. Modest Mouse, Raekwon, LCD Soundsystem, Here We Go Magic, St. Vincent, Lightning Bolt, Cass McCombs and Sleigh Bells round out the first group of announced acts. Tickets went on sale Friday at pitchforkmusicfestival.com.



St. Vincent



Pavement's Stephen Malkmus



"You have to be Angelina Jolie to pull that off and still look good. I don't know if you've noticed, but I ain't no Angie."

—Anne Hathaway (above) to the U.K. edition of GQ magazine on "movie kissing," according to usmagazine.com

Clarkson fights back

Kelly Clarkson (right) is defending the honor of "American Idol" after Taylor Swift's label mocked it as "a competition of getting up and seeing who can sing the highest note." The original "Idol" winner's blog response: "We not only hit the highest notes, you forgot to mention we generally hit the 'right' notes as well." Somewhere, Simon Cowell is beaming with pride.



The (Joe) Simpsons

Joe Simpson is putting his family's antics on the small screen—sort of. The famous dad of singers Jessica and Ashley is developing a comedy series for Nickelodeon that's loosely based on his real-life experience as a psychologist raising his daughters in Texas, according to usmagazine.com. Meanwhile, Jessica's reality show, "The Price of Beauty," debuts March 15 on VH1.

Sorry, Charlie

Charlie Sheen's Mercedes was found hundreds of feet down a cliff near his home in Sherman Oaks, Calif., early Friday about the same time the "Two and a Half Men" actor reported his ride stolen, according to The Associated Press. Police said there was no evidence anyone was in the car when it plunged into the ravine.